CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~for establishing~~ that establishes services that utilize policy-enabled resources in a communications network, comprising:

a first policy enforcement point (PEP) ~~for identifying~~ that identifies policy-enabled resources that are available and ~~allocating~~ allocates requested policy-enabled resources to services;

a first network resource controller (NRC) ~~for requesting~~ that requests from available policy-enabled resources any policy-enabled resources within a first domain required to establish a particular service; and

a first resource policy layer (RPL) ~~for provisioning~~ that provisions, to a service being established, the policy-enabled resources allocated to that service, said first resource policy layer including ~~at least one~~ a first policy description protocol (PDP),

wherein said first NRC initiates association between said first PEP and said ~~at least one~~ first PDP, ~~and~~

said first PDP provides said first PEP with a policy upon establishment of said association between said first PEP and first PDP, and

18   wherein when said first NRC requires resources from a second domain

19   outside the first domain, said first NRC signals a request to a second said

20   NRC in said second domain, which initiates association between a second

21   said PEP in said second domain and said first PDP, said first PDP providing

22   said second PEP with a policy upon establishment of said association between

23   said second PEP and said first PDP,

24   whereby there is a decoupling of policy management from the

25   management of policy-enabled resources.

1   2.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 1,

2   wherein the said first PEP comprises a plurality of virtual PEPs, each

3   virtual PEP being associated to a respective service.

1   3-5.   (Canceled).

1   6.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 1,

2   wherein the communications network comprises a plurality of

3   domains, the apparatus further comprises a second RPL associated with a

4   different second domain than the first comprising a second PEP.

1   7.   (Canceled).

1   8.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 1,

2   wherein resource capability information descriptors are used for

3   resource discovery and policy provisioning ~~between entities~~.

1   9.   (Currently Amended) A method of establishing services that utilize

2   policy-enabled resources in a communications network, comprising:

3   identifying, at a first policy enforcement point (PEP) policy-enabled

4   resources within a first domain that are available and allocating requested

5   policy-enabled resources to services;

6   requesting, from available policy-enabled resources at a first network

7   resource controller (NRC) any policy-enabled resources required to establish

8   a particular service; and

9   provisioning, to a service being established at a first resource policy

10   layer (RPL), the policy-enabled resources allocated to that service, said first

11   resource policy layer including at least one first policy description protocol

12   (PDP),

13   wherein said first NRC initiates association between said first PEP

14   and said ~~at least one~~ first PDP, ~~and~~ said first PDP provides said first PEP

15   with a policy upon establishment of said association between said first PEP

16   and first PDP, and

17   wherein when said first NRC requires resources from a second domain

18   outside the first domain, said first NRC signals a request to a second said

19   NRC in said second domain, which initiates association between a second

20   said PEP in said second domain and said first PDP, said first PDP providing

21   said second PEP with a policy upon establishment of said association between

22   said second PEP and said first PDP,

23   whereby there is a decoupling of policy management from the

24   management of policy-enabled resources.

1   10.   (Canceled).

1   11.   (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 9,

2   wherein virtual PEPs of a main PEP are provisioned to provide

3   resource services.

1   12.   (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 11,

2   wherein the virtual PEPs are provisioned to provide services in a

3   different said second domain.

1   13.   (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 12,

2   wherein ~~separate PEPs~~ said first PEP and said second PEP, ~~each from~~

3   ~~a different domain,~~ are provisioned ~~to~~ with the same service by said first

4   PDP.

1   14-16.   (Canceled).

1   17.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein

2   the first PEP and the second ~~PEPs~~ PEP are virtual PEPs created upon

3   request for said particular service by one of the first NRC and the second

4   NRC~~NRCs~~.

1   18.   (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 9, wherein the

2   first PEP and the second ~~PEPs~~ PEP are virtual PEPs created upon request

3   for said particular service by one of the first NRC and the second ~~NRCs~~ NRC.

1   19.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~for establishing~~ that establishes

2   services that utilize policy-enabled resources in a communications network,

3   comprising:

4   a first network resource controller (NRC), said first NRC requesting,

5   from available policy-enabled resources, any policy-enabled resources

6   required to establish a particular service;

7   a virtual first policy enforcement point (PEP) created upon requesting

8   the particular service, said virtual PEP identifying policy-enabled resources

9   that are available and allocating requested policy-enabled resources to

10 ~~services~~ the particular service;

11   a resource policy layer (RPL) including ~~at least one~~ a policy description

12 protocol (PDP),

13   wherein the virtual PEP is provided with information to contact the

14 PDP of the RPL in order to provision the policy-enabled resources allocated to

15 the particular service.

1   20.   (Currently Amended) A method of establishing services that utilize

2   policy-enabled resources in a communications network, comprising:

3   requesting, from available policy-enabled resources at a first network

4   resource controller (NRC) any policy-enabled resources required to establish

5   a particular service;

6   creating a virtual first policy enforcement point (PEP) upon requesting

7   the particular service;

8   identifying, at the virtual PEP, policy-enabled resources that are

9   available and allocating requested policy-enabled resources to ~~services~~ the

10 particular service;

11   providing the virtual PEP with information to contact a policy

12 description protocol (PDP) of a resource policy layer (RPL); and

13   provisioning, to ~~a service~~ the particular service being established at ~~a~~

14 ~~first~~ the resource policy layer (RPL), the policy-enabled resources allocated to

15 ~~that~~ the particular service.